

### **REMARKS**

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment and the following remarks. Support for newly amended claim 1 can be found in claim 7 and in the specification at page 1, lines 13-15. The applicant discussed amending the claims in this manner during the interview conducted on January 25, 2008.

The applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected claims be rejoined. However, it the Examiner does not believe that the non-elected claims should be rejoined, **the applicant authorizes the Examiner to cancel the non-elected claims.**

Claims 1-6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,861) in view of Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,323,756). The Examiner stated that Kar does not teach melting the substrate. Claim 7 (sputtering target) is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner stated that the process to make a sputtering target is allowed (claim 7).

### **Comments to Interview**

In an Interview conducted on January 25, 2008, Applicant agreed to put the limitations of claim 7 and "tube preforms or furnace part preform" in claim 1 to further distinguish the claim over the prior art. The Examiner agreed that the applied prior art does not teach that and further search needs to be conducted. Applicant has amended claim 1 accordingly.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13194-00160-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 31, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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